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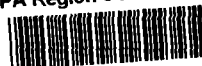
OLD BEN #9

OLD BEN A.C.

MINE DRAINAGE

OCT 26, 1975

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1975

West Frankfort site purchased

Gob coal recovery planned for Old Ben No. 9

By Gary Sosniecki
Of The Southern Illinoisan
A Taylorville man has exercised an option to buy the 374-acre former site of Old Ben No. 9 coal mine at West Frank-

fort to salvage and sell "gob" coal.
Sam Kennedy, president of S.F. Kennedy Industries Inc. and Energy Klenzing Systems Inc., both of Shelbyville, said

Saturday that "several million tons" of gob coal will be salvaged from the site during the next four years.
Plans then call for the land to be used for an industrial

park, he said.

At Old Ben 9, "gob" coal — also known as slack or slag — was screened out from larger coal because of its small size, usually less than two inches in diameter, Kennedy said.

The gob was left in large piles along with slate and clay and had little value unless cleaned.

Kennedy said a four-story-tall modular machine manufactured by his companies at a cost in excess of \$250,000 will be used in the reclamation process.

"It grades the coal, crushes it to a constant size, washes it and separates the rock from the coal," he explained. "Then it dewateres the remaining coal and puts it in tanks to be hauled away by truck or railroad car."

Arrangements already have been made for selling the salvaged coal. "We have people who will take all the coal we can produce off of it," Kennedy said.

Four-story machine planned at cost of over \$250,000

"As the coal is processed, the ground will be graded and converted into a commercial or industrial site," he added, "so actually it will improve the appearance of the property there immensely."

When Old Ben 9 closed Feb. 14, 1968, it was the oldest deep shaft coal mine operating in Illinois. It first opened in 1913 during the height of the Southern Illinois coal boom and employed 800 miners at its peak before closing in 1927.

The mine re-opened in 1944 with about 600 miners, but employment fell to 311 by the second closing in 1968.

Kennedy said the salvaging operation will provide jobs to

local workers, but added it is too early to estimate the number of jobs.

He said negotiations for the purchase of the mine began five months ago. He declined to reveal the purchase price.

Old Ben 9 reportedly was among the sites movie star John Wayne examined for a proposed coal gasification plant during a July 10 visit to Southern Illinois.

Kennedy said his companies are furnishing equipment under contract for a similar reclamation project in Royalton, Ky.

The firms also manufacture grain storage and crop drying equipment, he said.

SHELBYVILLE firm buys
Old Ben No. 9 near West
Frankfort, plans to recover several million tons of gob coal.
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